

*A Briefe of the Petition in behalfe of the Clothiers, Combers, Weavers, and all Woollen Manufacturers within the  
Kingdome of England, and of Merchants, and others concerned in the same. To the Honourable House of  
COMMONS in Parliament assembled wherunto are subscribed many thousands of hands from  
all the Clothing parts.*

**T**He first request of the Petition is, to have a penalty set upon every score of faulty Fell-wool.

The second, that the penalty already set by Act of Parliament of six pence upon every fleece of deceitfull wooll may be increased.

The third, that convenient Markets may be appointed where there is lack for the Owners of wooll, to bring their wooll to sell.

The fourth, That if the wisdom of the Parliament allow it, Commissioners and Officers may be appointed, to see the Lawes already made, and that shall be made, concerning the premises to be put in execution, for which the Petitioners will afford a considerable allowance, for those to be Officers whom they have entrusted with the managing of this suit.

The 5. That because the transportation of Wool and Fullers Earth hath not been looked unto, and that such great quantities have been transported beyond the Seas, as that they are now able to afford Clothes & other woollen Manufactures, in *Holland* and other places, cheaper than they can be afforded in *England*. And because the Lawes against buying and selling wool unwrought, are repealed, The *Staplers, Fellmongers, Jobbers, and Broggers*, are become Ingrossers, Abusers, and Corrupters of wool, and thought transporters also, and use much deceit, &c. And the petitioners are forced to take and buy wool at second, third, and fourth hand, to the great inhausing of the price of Manufactures here, and increase of those Trades beyond the Seas, and the losse of Trade and Customes, and hinderance of setting the poor on work, to the perishing of many thousands of Families, that have maintained themselves upon those Manufactures. Therefore the Request is, that it may be made Felony to transport Wool, Woolfels, Yarn, Fullers Earth, and Fulling-clay, and the losse of the ship or Vessell, and all therein.

6. That because many without the Skill, Art, and Mystery, in the trades of Woollen Manufactures (to be obtained only by serving Apprentices thereunto) have procured some small knowledge by monies, and so have exercised Woollen trades and made such bad and deceitfull Wares, as have made them to be disesteemed, and unliked of both here and in forraign parts. Whereby the petitioners are deprived of their labours, And others discouraged from putting their Sons Apprentices. And have caused many to goe into forraign parts, to set up those Trades, and to teach them to Aliens and strangers.

Therefore, the Request is, that none may exercise any of these Trades of Woollen Manufactures, without having served first 7. years Apprentiship. And that the afore said Commissioners and Officers may look to the executing of the Lawes made, or to be made, as in the 4. Request.

*The effect of what is yeelded and condescended unto in the said Petition: And of what remains upon debate before the committee, of the House of Commons. And sought by the Petitioners to be obtained, against all fore stallers Ingrossers and Reqraters of wooll.*

**F**irst the said Committee have declared severall times (*nemine contradicente*) that all Lawes heretofore, made and still in force, against Abuses & corruptions in winding & mingling of wools with Sand, trash, &c. And the subjecting them to soaking of water, for encrease of weight, & deceitfull selling the same. And against transportation of Wool, Woolfels, & Fullers Earth. And against the exercising of the Trades of Woollen Manufactures, without having served 7. yeares Apprentiship thereunto, shall be put in execution, And that further Lawes shall be made, for enforcement thereof and supply of defects, when upon the said Committees Report of the whole Matter, to the House, it shall be there determined, *De modo*; how it shall be done, And this is not opposed by any Opposers of the Petition.

Secondly, That which remains, still depending in dispute, is about reviving the Statutes mentioned in the petition, to be repealed, touching provisions against fore-stalling, ingrossing, & regrating of Wools, by any persons whatsoever. And whether the *Staplers, Fellmongers, Jobbers, and Broggers*, driving a Trade of excessive gaine in buying and selling of wools (besides corrupting of them) between the Grower and the Workers) are a damage to the Common-wealth, to the hinderance and prejudice of the trades of Woollen Manufactures within the Kingdome, and encrease of these trades beyond the Seas, and to the advancing the price of those commodities here to be dearer, then may be afforded there, and a cause of making many false and bad Cloaths, Stuffs, &c. to the discrediting and disrepute of them; especially in the East countries, where heretofore they have been famous, and from whence are brought, in exchange, commodities of most considerable concernment to the Kingdome. As cordage, pitch, tarre, pot-ashes, mastes, wainscot, clappbord, deales, timber, *besides those of the Turkie, Spanishe, and Muscovia, trades as Velvets, Sattens, Silks, Wine, Sugars, fruites, Furrer, &c.* And whether this tends to the decay of Customes, & Ruine of many 100000. Families, that subsist & live by those Trades, being the chiefe maintenance of the poor of the Kingdome, which we doubt not, but to make appear, so as that the Parliament wil take it into consideration to provide Remedies and Lawes expedient. which is humbly prayed in behalfe of the rest.

*By Vs whose names are subscribed.*

For Suffolk.  
*William Richason.  
Iohn Dicer.  
William Maxey senior.  
Daniel Wall.  
Roger Brown.  
Iohn Kent.  
George Spaulden.  
Edward Gerrard.  
Lionell Mills.  
VWilliam Linch.  
Jonathan Goffe.*

For Essex.  
*Robert Webb.  
Stephen How.  
Thomas Laurence.  
Thomas Brown.  
VWilliam Reynolds.*

For Kent.  
*Thomas Lambe.  
Captain Bafeden.*

For Lancashire. *Nicholas Greathead.  
Tho. Lancashire. Thomas Ody.  
Rich. Lomax. Iohn Benson.  
Iohn Wilson. Miles Douglas.  
James Leaver. For Devon.  
Jonathan Holiday Iohn Brynam.  
Simeon Lovejoy.  
Andrew Gotham.*

For Yorkshire. *Tho. Fairburn. Richard Glanfield.  
Peter Greathead Iohn Berry.*

For Worcester  
*Henry Foord Alderman.  
George Hemings Sheriffe.  
Richard Sadler.*

For Gloucester.  
*James VVright.  
Iohn Archer.*

For Coventry  
*Ioseph Chambers  
Samuel Palmer.  
Ioseph Troughton.*

For Somersetshire.  
*Captain Pitcher.  
Andrew Terrie.  
Berkshire.  
The Mayor of Newbury.*

For Surrey.  
*Richard VVoodiard.  
Iohn How.*

For Wiltshire.  
*VVilliam Yerbery.  
Henry Hasewell.*